The demand of pulses for the year 2006-07 was estimated to be 17.71 million tonnes by a Working Group of the Planning Commission set up for the Tenth Plan period. The Planning Commission has constituted a Working Group for working out, *inter-alia*, the demand projection of pulses for the Eleventh Plan. As per estimates of this Working Group, the demand for pulses during 2011-12 is 19 million tonnes (provisional).

(c) For increasing the production and productivity of pulses, a Centrally Sponsored "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is under implementation since 01.04.2004. Under this scheme, assistance is provided for production of breeder/foundation/certified seed, crash programme for quality seed production, distribution of certified seed, and Minikits, infrastructure development and integrated Pest Management. Besides, front line demonstrations on improved production technologies in oilseeds and pulses are conducted through Indian Council of Agricultural Research as a transfer of technology. Import of pulses are allowed to bridge the gap between demand and supply.

NAIS in Rajasthan

1022. DR. GYAN PRAKASH PILANIA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the crops presently covered in Rajasthan under the National Agricultural Insurance Scheme;

(b) whether the State Government have sought the intervention of the Central Government to include certain other perennial crops in the scheme;

(c) whether Government would consider to accord sanction for the above proposals, if any, and the reaction of Government thereto;

(d) why a farmer, particularly a marginal farmer, usually hesitates to undertake an insurance cover under NAIS and what hassles he has to face; and

(e) what steps the Central Government intends to take to help the farmers and make NAIS more acceptable and farmer friendly?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) State Government of Rajasthan has notified jowar,

paddy, bajra, maize, cowpea, greengram, tur, blackgram, til, castor, soyabean, groundnut, moth and guar crops under National Agricultural Insurance Scheme (NAIS) for Kharif 2006 season.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

(d) Benefit of insurance coverage is available to all categories of farmers including marginal farmers. To facilitate small and marginal farmers, they are paid premium subsidy which is at present, 10% of the premium. However, over a period of implementation of NAIS, it has been *inter alia* observed that: payment of insurance claims is sometime delayed, assessment of losses made due to larger unit area of insurance, unattractive threshold yield and indemnity level, non-coverage of prevented sowing risk/post harvest losses.

(e) Keeping in view the limitations of the scheme a Joint Group was constituted by the Government to study the improvements required in the existing crop insurance scheme and to make it more farmer friendly. The Group has made indepth study and submitted its report. The important recommendations made by the Group are in respect of reducing the unit area of insurance to Gram Panchayat for major crops, improving the basis of calculation of threshold yield, higher indemnity level of 80% and 90% coverage of pre-sowing/planting risks and post-harvest losses and making 'on account' payment of crop losses etc. Based on the recommendations of the Joint Group, the Government is in the process of revising the present scheme.

Development of pulses

†1023. SHRI LALIT KISHORE CHATURVEDI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the average production of pulses *viz.*, moong, urad, arhar, chaula, masoor and moth before the green revolution and their present production, State-wise yield per acre;

(b) whether it is a fact that whole efforts concentrated on increasing the

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.